United Nations E/CN.3/2019/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 December 2018

Original: English

**Statistical Commission**
**Fiftieth session**
5–8 March 2019
Item 4(j) of the provisional agenda*
**Items for information: follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council**

# Policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report, which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2018/227 and past practices, provides an overview of the policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Council in 2018, or earlier, that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The action taken or proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in response to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council is also highlighted. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

* E/CN.3/2019/1.

18-20928 (E) 311218

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2018/227 and past practices. It provides an overview of the policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Council in 2018, or earlier, that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The action taken or proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in response to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council is also highlighted.

# II. Enhancement of the statistical capacities of Member States with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## A. Action requested by the General Assembly

2. In its resolution 72/228 on science, technology and innovation for development, the General Assembly encouraged enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including for African countries, the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries, in order to generate the use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and further encouraged international cooperation, including through technical and financial support, to strengthen the capacity of national statistical authorities and bureaux. Subsequently, in its resolution 72/234 on women in development, the Assembly encouraged developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems.

3. In addition, in its resolution 72/237 on South-South cooperation, the General Assembly invited the regional commissions to help to promote the enhancement of the data and statistical capacities of member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. In its resolution 72/310 on a New Partnership for Africa's Development, the General Assembly reiterated the need to support developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. In its resolution 2018/4 on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Economic and Social Council urged donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities, to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development. In its resolution 2018/23 on new strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Council endorsed the new strategic directions and referred to the need for an effective data policy regime and architecture to support the implementation and monitoring of the development process in Africa, as captured in the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063, which will require resources and strengthened capacities for data collection, storage, access and analysis grounded in robust statistical systems.

5. In its resolution 72/217 on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the General Assembly urged the

international community to support small island developing States in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems, with a view to supporting the implementation, follow-up and review Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. In its resolution 72/232 on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, the Assembly also stressed the need to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, and reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. With respect to development cooperation with middle-income countries, if reiterated, in its resolution 72/230 on development cooperation with middle-income countries, the commitment to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, including middle-income countries.

6. In its resolution 72/228, the General Assembly took note of the launch of the United Nations World Data Forum, which sets out to improve the use of data for sustainable development, noting that the first Forum was hosted in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15 to 18 January 2017, and looked forward to the convening of the second, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in October 2018.

## B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

7. In its report (E/CN.3/2019/4), the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a summary of the recent activities of the Group, including: (a) preparation of a document on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data; (b) consultations on the establishment of a financing mechanism to support the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the launch of the outcome document of the second United Nations World Data Forum, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 22 to 24 October 2018; (c) organization of the second United Nations World Data Forum; and (d) preparation of a document on a more efficient coordination of the United Nations statistical system.

8. In his report on statistical capacity development (E/CN.3/2019/28), the Secretary-General provides an overview of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division in support of country efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to better respond to the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda. He also provides updates on new and continuing collaborative efforts for synchronizing initiatives and leveraging partnerships and coordination in statistical capacity-building.

9. In its report (E/CN.3/2019/7) on statistical development in Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) highlights five action areas prioritized by countries in the region to strengthen their national statistical capacity: engaging users and investing in statistics; ensuring the quality of and thereby building trust in statistics; using integrated statistics for comprehensive analysis; modernizing statistical business processes; and developing requisite skills sets. ESCAP reflects on the future strategic direction for Asia-Pacific collaboration on statistics in areas such as skills development through training partnerships, joint advocacy efforts for strengthened statistical systems, a greater focus on public-private partnerships, and innovation.

# III. International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem

## A. Action requested by the General Assembly

10. In its resolution 72/198 on international cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem, the General Assembly invited Member States to promote and improve the systematic collection of information and gathering of evidence as well as the sharing, at the national and international levels, of reliable and comparable data on drug use and epidemiology, including on social, economic and other risk factors. It requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in close cooperation with Member States and pertinent United Nations entities, intergovernmental and regional organizations and, when appropriate, the scientific community and civil society, to continue to support Member States, upon request, in strengthening their capacity to develop their reporting mechanisms, including by identifying gaps in the current drug statistics and by exploring possibilities to strengthen existing data-collection and analysis tools at the national level.

11. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also invited UNODC, in close cooperation with Member States, to reflect on possibilities for strengthening and streamlining its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving and strengthening the quality, response rate and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire, and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on possible ways to enhance those, for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-second session, and invited Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources for those purposes.

12. The General Assembly also welcomed Statistical Commission decision 48/110 on statistics on drugs and drug use (see E/2017/24, chap. I, sect. C), encouraged collaboration between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, within their mandates, to exchange information on the latest data trends on the world drug problem, stressed the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of drug statistics and also to respond effectively to data collection requests from UNODC, and invited international and regional organizations to support Member States in that regard, upon their request.

13. In addition, the General Assembly invited Member States to invest in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities for the collection and reporting of information, to participate in joint cooperation efforts aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge and practical experience in the collection, analysis and evaluation drug data, and to regularly report data and information relating to all aspects of the world drug problem to the Office through the annual report questionnaires. It also invited the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to strengthen the capacity of the Office to collect, analyse, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data and to reflect such information in the World Drug Report. It encouraged Member States to promote data collection, research and the sharing of information, as well as the exchange of best practices on preventing and countering drug-related crime and on drug supply reduction measures and practices, and invited them to consider the need to review the set of national drug policy metrics and tools for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable, disaggregated, comprehensive and comparable data to measure the effectiveness of programmes to address all relevant aspects of the world drug problem, including, as appropriate, as related to the 2030 Agenda.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

14. In its report on crime and criminal justice statistics (E/CN.3/2019/19), UNODC reviews steps undertaken to implement the road map to improve statistics on drugs discussed by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, in 2017. In particular, UNODC indicates that it started a review of data collection tools and activities to support Member States in strengthening their capacity to produce and analyse drug statistics at the national level. In the report, UNODC also reviews activities, accomplishments and future challenges related to improving statistics on drugs and ways to further strengthen the collaboration between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including with regard to the revision process of the collection of international data on drugs.

## IV. Disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

15. In its resolution 72/218 on disaster risk reduction, the General Assembly recognized that disaster risk reduction required a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge. In that regard, the Assembly encouraged States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and urged States to continue working on the development of baselines on current and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible.

16. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also welcomed the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1) and the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13, as an important contribution to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, collection of data and reporting. In that connection, the Assembly welcomed efforts to develop coherent metrics for reporting under the Sendai Framework, the Goals and other relevant instruments.

17. In its resolution 72/132 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, the General Assembly encouraged Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and to strengthen evidence-based policy and operational responses at all levels regarding the drivers, scale, dynamics, effects, patterns and duration of displacement in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change.

18. In the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging with the volunteer and technical communities, as appropriate, in to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk efforts. It also encouraged

the United Nations to continue to strengthen its provision of data-related services and policy advice and build the data skills of its humanitarian staff, in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response. In addition, it encouraged Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences, to support preparedness efforts, including forecast-based action and financing, and to improve the effectiveness and accountability of a needs-based humanitarian response. Furthermore, it encouraged the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis and encouraged Member States, with support from the United Nations upon request, to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities and to continue to collect, share and use such data to inform relevant policies and strategies.

19. Both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in their resolutions 72/133 and 2018/11, on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance, requested Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response. and to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data.

20. In its resolution 72/182 on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, the General Assembly also recognized the need to collect reliable, timely, longitudinal and disaggregated data, including data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location, on internally displaced persons and the impact of protracted displacement on host communities in order to improve policy and programming, preventive measures on and response to internal displacement and to promote the achievement of durable solutions. It encouraged Member States, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations humanitarian coordinators and country teams to contribute to the provision of reliable data on internal displacement situations, with the cooperation of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical support and assistance of the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service, and to provide financial resources, as appropriate, in those respects.

## B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

21. The joint report on disaster-related statistics prepared by the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (E/CN.3/2019/16) serves to summarize the work of the main international and regional organizations active in disaster-related statistics. It is shown in the report that there is already considerable complementarity, coordination and cooperation on the topic under the purview of the Statistical Commission. Ways to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a community of practice for disaster-related statistics are explored in the context of the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved.

# V. Global geospatial information management

## A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

22. In its resolution 72/77 on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, the General Assembly expressed its desire to have international coordination and cooperation enhanced at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of geospatial information for all countries. In that context, it emphasized the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to strengthen sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels. It also encouraged Member States to promote the use of space-derived geospatial data.

23. In its resolution 72/132, the General Assembly also encouraged the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters. It invited Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery.

24. The Economic and Social Council endorsed the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters in its resolution 2018/14, as a guide for Member States to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and invited Member States, their relevant government bodies, the United Nations system, international organizations, donors, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations with responsibility for disaster risk reduction and management, in accordance with their mandates, to adopt the Strategic Framework. In the Strategic Framework, Member States underlined, inter alia, the need to develop a common and accessible database system of minimum/baseline geospatial information and services requirements, including comprehensive common and fundamental operational datasets, such as administrative boundaries, population, critical infrastructures and other exposure datasets, and earth observation data holdings. It also stresses the importance of developing policies for managing data collection, sharing, classification, custodianship, stewardship, security and control at the local and national levels, and recognized the importance of integrating geospatial data and statistics in disaster risk management plans and programmes, as well as the need for data distribution platforms duly recognized and supported by Member States and other key stakeholders and for adherence to data management guidelines and other geospatial information management standards to ensure interoperability of information. Furthermore, Member States called upon the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to encourage Member States to develop and promote geospatial databases, standards, protocols and processes aimed at improving data quality and interoperability at the national and global levels.

25. In its resolution 2018/2 on the future organization and methods of work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Council reaffirmed the need to strengthen the joint work between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, taking into account that places and geospatial objects referred to by geographical names should have a geospatial location established through the global geodetic reference frame.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

26. In its report (E/CN.3/2019/31), the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information describes progress towards the finalization of the five principles of the global statistical geospatial framework and the adoption, by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its eighth session, convened in August 2018, of the Expert Group's short- and longer-term statistical-geospatial interoperability projects.

## VI. International migration

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly

27. In its resolution 72/179 on the protection of migrants, the General Assembly called upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in that regard.

28. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/149 on violence against women migrant workers, encouraged concerned Governments, in particular those of countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that would generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process. It also encouraged those Governments to further assess and measure recruitment costs and fees through the provision of appropriate sex-disaggregated data and analysis, where available, and to support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances.

29. In its resolution 72/244 on modalities for the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the General Assembly invited Member States and relevant stakeholders to consider sharing their perspectives on all dimensions of international migration, including cooperation on data collection and analysis and governance.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

30. In his report on international migration statistics (E/CN.3/2019/17), the Secretary-General presents recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division in 2018 to fulfil the requests of the Statistical Commission contained in its decision 49/101, in terms of: (a) engagement of the Bureau of the Commission during the negotiation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and (b) the work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Migration Statistics on methodological development, including on the revision of the Recommendations on Statistics for International Migration. Furthermore, the Secretary-General describes other ongoing work, including data and metadata collection and capacity-building, as

well as future priorities for the Division and the Expert Group in strengthening international migration statistics.

31. On 15 and 16 January 2018, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the first International Forum on Migration Statistics. The Forum brought together producers, analysts and users of migration statistics to address the challenges for improving the production and use of migration data and to discuss global initiatives on migration, including on data innovation and big data for migration and capacity-building for migration data.

32. On 18 May 2018, the Chair of the Statistical Commission addressed the co-facilitators of the negotiation process on the statistical aspects of the proposed draft for a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which was adopted on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco. The Chair called for coordinated efforts on data and statistics, while building upon existing initiatives and mechanisms.

# VII. Gender statistics

## A. Action requested by the General Assembly

33. In its resolution 72/147 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of its twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly requested that reports of the Secretary-General continue to systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis and the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age. It also encouraged Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women, through multisectoral efforts and partnerships.

34. In addition, in its resolution 72/148 on the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas, the General Assembly urged Member States to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation by, inter alia, addressing the lack of quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistical information on disabilities, to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and by strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and age, and gender statistics on time use, unpaid work, land tenure, energy, water and sanitation, among other things, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls, and to monitor and track the implementation of such policies and actions.

35. Furthermore, the General Assembly emphasized, in its resolution 72/149, the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination. It also invited the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that were, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protected human rights, as well as to aid in policy

assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers.

36. In its resolution 72/154 on the girl child, the General Assembly expressed deep concern about the continuing lack of recent information and statistics, disaggregated by sex, on the status of children in child-headed households, and called upon States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability status, economic situation, marital status and geographical location, and improve gender statistics on time use, unpaid care work and water and sanitation in order to provide a better understanding of the situations of girls, especially of the multiple forms of discrimination that they face, and to inform the development of necessary policies and programme responses. Subsequently, the Assembly, in its resolution 72/234, further encouraged Governments in cooperation with the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, upon the request of Governments, to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and statistics and to assess the impact of associated policy measures on women.

37. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2018/7 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, called upon the United Nations system to enhance standards and methodologies to improve the systematic collection, analysis, dissemination and use of accurate, reliable, transparent and comparable data and statistics and, where applicable and with due respect for confidentiality, open data and statistics related to achieving gender equality, disaggregated by, inter alia, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

## B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

38. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Government of Japan, organized the seventh Global Forum on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme and the guidance of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. The event brought together producers and users of gender statistics from national and international statistical offices, other government agencies, international organizations, academia, civil society and the donor community. The Forum provided an opportunity for discussion on ways to improve data and evidence for gender policies, in the context of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the Forum:

(a) Reviewed methodological developments for better gender statistics, including the nexus between gender and environment; measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective; monitoring international migration; and producing data on gender identity;

(b) Took stock of national practices and strategies for measuring and monitoring gender concerns, in line with the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework;

(c) Discussed how statistical offices could communicate more effectively to ensure that policy makers, the media and the general public could identify, understand, and make full use of available data;

(d) Provided an overview of the latest research/assessment of progress towards gender equality, and an overview of the availability of disaggregated gender data, to ensure no one is left behind.

39. The Division organized an expert group meeting on innovative and effective ways to collect time-use statistics, to take stock of best practices in countries with regard to producing time-use data and to discuss the content and updating of the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*. The expert group meeting also contributed to the gender statistics and indicators component of the Programme on Statistics and Data under the tenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account and, in particular, to its expected accomplishment 5 (enhance the capacity of target countries to adopt and apply statistical methods to assess gender gaps in selected key areas of women's empowerment, classified as tier II indicators in the Sustainable Development Goal framework).

40. The Division, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, ECA, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Statistics Division of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, organized a series of regional workshops on the measurement of asset ownership from a gender perspective. The workshops were organized under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality project and brought together national statisticians to discuss the concepts and methods outlined in the report on methodological guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership from a gender perspective through household surveys.

# VIII. Inclusive development for persons with disability

## A. Action requested by the General Assembly

41. In its resolution 72/162 entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situation of women and girls with disabilities", the General Assembly noted that the continuing lack of reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributed to their exclusion in official statistics, policies and programmes, and recognized the need to intensify efforts to build the capacity of Member States, and to strengthen data collection and analysis and disaggregate data by disability, sex and age to support the development of evidence-based policies and programmes inclusive of women and girls with disabilities.

42. In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon States to collect and analyse data disaggregated by income, sex, race, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant to national contexts to assist with the identification and eradication of barriers and all forms of discrimination that prevent women and girls with disabilities from enjoying all the rights stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to improve data collection systems for adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the implementation of the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals in relation to women and girls with disabilities.

43. In addition, the General Assembly urged States and other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, to continue to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by, inter alia, supporting the disaggregation of data by disability, sex and age for specific indicators, on the basis of the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and other data collection methodologies, where relevant, to assist States in measuring the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets and programming policies in the context of the Goals.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

44. Pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 49/106, adopted at its forty-ninth session (see E/2018/24, chap. I, sect. B), the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys has developed a work plan to focus on cross-cutting issues, including data disaggregation (see E/CN.3/2019/25). The Statistics Division serves as the secretariat of the Working Group. Persons with disabilities are one of the populations being prioritized in the workstream of the Working Group, together with other populations, for which data disaggregation is needed, as stressed in the 2030 Agenda. The Division as secretariat of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators has also assisted the Working Group in advancing the activities of the data disaggregation workstream. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group is currently considering policy priorities as recommended by the stakeholders in their respective areas of work, including those concerned with persons with disabilities. The priorities will determine the indicators and related dimensions to be considered for data disaggregation in the global indicator framework. Details of the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in this area are contained in its report (E/CN.3/2019/2) and in the background document on data disaggregation, which will be available from the website of the Commission (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50thsession/documents/#background).

45. The Division maintains a comprehensive international repository on disability statistics, with data and metadata on disability from official statistics compiled from national population and housing censuses, household surveys and administrative data. On the basis of recent data collected, the Division has launched a web data portal to facilitate the accessibility of information by the broader user community, with the aim of supporting analysis of the situation of persons with disabilities in different countries, in terms of the prevalence of disabilities and the differentials, by socioeconomic and living conditions, of persons with and without disabilities.

## IX. Crime prevention and criminal justice

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

46. In its resolution 72/55 on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, the General Assembly encouraged States to consider, where relevant, developing national, regional and subregional indicators on ammunition management aimed at achieving relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the reduction of illicit arms flows and the prevention of violence through strengthened institutions, and asked the Secretariat to assist States by developing, upon their request and within existing resources, options for such indicators.

47. In its resolution 72/156 on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the General Assembly underlined the importance of data and statistics on racist and xenophobic crimes for identifying the types of offences committed, the profiles of victims and of perpetrators and whether the latter were affiliated with extremist movements or groups, thus enhancing better understanding of the phenomenon and identifying effective measures to address such racist and xenophobic crimes.

48. In its resolution 72/175 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, the General Assembly called upon States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference, inter alia, by means of collecting and analysing concrete quantitative and qualitative data on attacks or violence against journalists, that are disaggregated by, among other factors, sex.

49. In its resolution 72/196 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly invited Member States to develop national plans for the gradual adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and to strengthen national statistical systems of criminal justice, and requested UNODC, within its existing mandate, to continue to strengthen the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information, including, as appropriate, data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant criteria, and strongly encouraged Member States to share such data and information with the Office.

50. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2018/17 on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, welcomed the efforts of UNODC to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, where necessary, including gender-specific data, in order to promote the rule of law and achieve sustainable development, and noted the application of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

51. After the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework in 2016, the work on crime and criminal justice statistics was prioritized in relation to Goal indicators on security, violence, trafficking, access toc justice and corruption. In its report (E/CN.3/2019/19), UNODC reviews activities and accomplishments and describes existing challenges and activities to be undertaken, including the development of new methodologies to measure illicit financial flows and sexual harassment, and technical support to countries and regions with regard to implementing surveys (e.g., on corruption and crime victimization and on improving administrative data to align data with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes).

## X. Sustainable agriculture and food security

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly

52. In its resolution 72/205 on commodities, the General Assembly underlined the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, noted that global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, the joint organization data initiative and other regional data platforms and programmes, and urged the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products.

53. In its resolution 72/215 on agricultural technology for sustainable development, the General Assembly recognized that the development and open access to mega data

and information would bring about profound changes in agricultural research, agricultural extension and rural development, and stressed the need to support and strengthen information systems and statistical systems for better disaggregated data collection and processing, which would be key in monitoring progress in the adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies and their impact on improving food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. In that connection, the Assembly invited the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to consider ways to make available data and information relating to agriculture and food systems, including meteorology, big data, the Internet of things, satellite imagery, early warning systems and other data-based technologies, that could help to build the resilience of family farmers and smallholder producers, optimize yields and support rural livelihoods.

54. In the same resolution, the General Assembly stressed the importance of indicators that could be used to formulate targeted policies towards the adoption of agricultural technology and to measure their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard encouraged Member States, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to continue to contribute to the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on the global indicator framework.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

55. The Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics held an Open Day in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the margins of the United Nations World Data Forum, 2018, to demonstrate how the use of alternative and big data sources combined with the latest technology could be done and would improve the quality and relevance of official statistics. The programme included, inter alia, sessions on the use of satellite data for agriculture and environment statistics to support the development of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

56. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators reviewed the methodology development for the remaining three tier III indicators under Goal 2 in September and November 2018 and reclassified them as tier II indicators. As a result, all indicators in the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework for monitoring Goal 2 are tier I or II indicators, which means that all Goal 2 indicators have an international established methodology and standards.

## XI. Ageing

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

57. In its resolution 72/144 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the General Assembly recommended that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons. It also recognized that the data revolution presented new opportunities and challenges for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, and to ensure that no one was left behind. In that context, the Assembly welcomed the inclusion of the topic of ageing and age-disaggregated data on the agenda of the Statistical Commission. It also encouraged the international community and the relevant agencies of the United

Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing.

58. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2018/6 on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid international Plan for Action on Aging, 2002, encouraged the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts, upon request, and to provide funding for research and the collection of data disaggregated by age, in addition to data disaggregated by sex and disability, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

59. In his report (E/CN.3/2019/23) on demographic statistics, the Secretary-General presents activities carried out by the Statistics Division in that area, provides an update on the development of and related activities of the Titchfield Group on ageing statistics, which was established by the Commission at its forty-ninth session. The overall objective of the Group is to develop standardized tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data and to encourage countries to do the same. The first formal meeting of the Titchfield Group, held on 26 and 27 June 2018, included the participation of representatives of national statistical offices, entities of the United Nations system, civil society and academia set the scope of the work programme of the Group for the next five years.

## XII. External debt sustainability and development assistance

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly

60. In its resolution 72/204 on external debt sustainability and development, the General Assembly stressed the need for improved data collection and quality in areas that included domestic public debt, domestic and external private debt. It reiterated that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt were necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, called for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect and release data, where appropriate, welcomed the ongoing work of relevant institutions to apply innovative tools for monitoring financial stress in developing countries and to create a central data registry that included information on debt restructuring, and called for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard. In the same resolution, the Assembly recognized the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries.

61. Subsequently, in its resolution 72/233 on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), the General Assembly stressed the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support towards the fulfilment of official development assistance commitments, including by providing

data on aid effectiveness, and urged countries to track and report resource allocations for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

62. The Commission will have before it the report of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the review of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics and its substructures (E/CN.3/2019/9). In its report, IMF proposes to transfer the activities of the Task Force related to conceptual/methodological issues on external debt statistics to the IMF's Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics and on public debt statistics to the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the IMF Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee.

## XIII. Health data and statistics

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly

63. In its resolution 2018/4, the Economic and Social Council invited development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing reliable health information and data.

64. In its resolution 72/309 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2030, the General Assembly recognized the critical need to strengthen malaria surveillance and data quality in all regions where malaria is endemic in order to accurately measure progress, combat resurgence and target resources, particularly in the face of growing resistance to treatment and preventive measures, and recognized also that additional financing was needed to strengthen national and regional surveillance systems and to support the sharing and analysis of best practices to address urgent programmatic challenges, improve monitoring and evaluation, and conduct regular financial planning and gap analyses.

### B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

65. In its report (E/CN.3/2019/24),the World Health Organization outlines its current work on health statistics in relation to monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and its new monitoring framework to track progress towards the triple billion targets – 1 billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage, 1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies, and 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being, all by 2023 – which are key milestones towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal targets.

## XIV. Broader measures of progress

### A. Action requested by the General Assembly

66. In its resolution 72/223 entitled "Harmony with Nature", the General Assembly recognized that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity, nor was it an

indicator of development, and also recognized the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions. It encouraged all countries to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic national statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development, invited the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support, and noted the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission, as set out in Commission decision 44/114 (see E/2013/24, chap. I, sect. C), on a work programme to develop broader measures of progress and to conduct a technical review of existing efforts in this area.

## B. Action taken or proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

67. In its report (E/CN.3/2019/8), the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts highlights progress made in addressing important conceptual issues, some of which may extend beyond the 2008 System of Nations Accounts (SNA), and its support to Member States that are lagging behind. The Working Group also provides information on issues emerging from the implementation of SNA, in particular the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts.